7:Lynn G-5 (1932-1936) 1937 FE11 Tallensi FE11

(4). Small quantities of seed and soup ingredients are stored in earthenware pots and calabashes of different shapes and sizes, which can be sealed with mud and cowdung. Ashes are mixed with cowpeas to discourage attacks from weevils. Groundnuts are generally stored in big baskets, plastered on the outside with mud and cowdung.

Animal Husbandry.

The importance of livestock in maintaining a system of fixed cultivation, under the conditions described, is patent. Furthermore the importation from French territory of large quantities of cattle, sheep, goats, and fowls, is a good indication of the size of the market for meat in Ashanti and the Colony; there is no reason why a greater proportion of this market should not be satisfied from local sources than is at present supplied, with benefit to the local farmer. In recognition of this, Government has pursued a policy of general immunisation against cattle plague, which is now practically complete. As a result, the cattle in North Mamprusi are shown to be increasing very satisfactorily (12) since the initial immunisation in 1931-32. From a census taken in 1936 they were found to number over 64,000 head. Thus over one-third of the cattle in the Northern Territories (64,293 head out of 160,000) are being maintained upon less than one-tenth of its area (3,559 sq. miles out of 41,940 sq. miles). The growth of the cattle population, taken into account with the numbers of other livestock, and the shortage of water and of human food in some years, gives some idea of the magnitude of the animal husbandry problems which lie ahead.

Uneconomic Position of Livestock.

Livestock occupy a peculiar position in local farm economy. Although they are sold in order to get money when necessary, nevertheless, they are not reared for economic purposes, but primarily for religious sacrifice and the payment of marriage dowries. In North Mamprusi, wealth and position are associated, not with money, but with the number of wives and children, and livestock, that a man has. Four cows would enable a man to acquire another wife, but ten pounds would not do so (by custom). As with crop husbandry, so with animal husbandry, economic conditions are changing more rapidly than custom is adjusting itself; unless the adjustment receives careful assistance there is a grave risk of loss of soil fertility and human stamina, on the one hand, and the constitution of the livestock upon the other.

Numbers of Livestock Owned per Compound.

The numbers of livestock owned by recorded compounds are set out in Table 8, of Appendix II, in detail. From this table text Table 5 below has been extracted.